

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Stephen G. Grubb, et al.

For: Optical Transmission Systems Including Signal Varying Devices and
Methods

Serial No.: Group No.: Art Unit:

Filing Date: December 21, 2001 Examiner:

Docket No. 980721CIPCIP

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENTAssistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

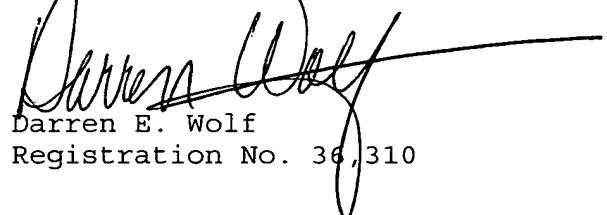
Sir:

Applicant, in accordance with the duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, hereby advises the United States Patent and Trademark Office of the references listed on the accompanying form PTO 1449 "Information Disclosure Statement by Applicant". A copy of the references cited herein are not included because each reference was previously cited by or submitted to the Patent and Trademark Office in prior U.S. Patent application serial numbers 09/253,819, filed February 19, 1999, Serial No. 09/119,556, filed July 21, 1998, Serial Number 09/817,478, filed March 26, 2001, Serial Number 09/119,561, filed on July 21, 1998, Serial Number 09/544,487, filed on April 7, 2000, all of which are relied upon in the present application for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. 120.

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Applicant notes that although the cited references may be relevant to the examination of the above-referenced application, under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(h), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement "shall not be construed to be an admission that the information cited in the statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(b)."

Respectfully submitted,



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